

BLE

Such a mirth as this is capable of making a beauty, as well as a *blemish*, the subject of derision. *Addison. Spect. N° 291.*
 To BLEND. *v. n.* To shrink; to start back; to fly off.
 I'll observe his looks;
 I'll tent him to the quick; if he but *blend*,
 I know my course. *Shaksp. Hamlet.*

Patience herself, what goddess ere she be,
 Doth lesser *blend* at sufferance than I do. *Shaksp. Tr. and Cr.*
 Hold you ever to our special drift;
 Though sometimes you do *blend* from this to that,
 As cause doth minister. *Shaksp. Merry Wives of Windsor.*

To BLEND. *v. a.* To hinder; to obstruct.
 The rebels besieged them, winning the even ground on the top, by carrying up great trusses of hay before them, to *blend* the defendants fight, and dead their shot. *Carew's Survey.*

To BLEND. *v. a.* preter. I *blended*; anciently, *blent*. [*blentan*, Saxon.]
 1. To mingle together.
 'Tis beauty truly *blent*, whose red and white
 Nature's own sweet and cunning hand hath laid on. *Shaksp. Twelfth Night.*

The mistion taught by the ancients is too flight or gross; for bodies, mixed according to their hypothesis, would not appear such to the acute eyes of a lynx, who would discern the elements, if they were no otherwise mingled, than but *blended*, but not united. *Boyle.*

He had his calmer influence, and his mien
 Did love and majesty together *blend*. *Dryden.*
 The grave, where even the great find rest,
 And *blended* lie th' oppressor and th' oppress'd. *Pope.*

2. To confound.
 The moon should wander from her beaten way, the times and seasons of the year *blend* themselves by disorder'd and confused mixture. *Hooker, b. i. § 3.*

3. To pollute; to spoil; to corrupt. This signification was anciently much in use, but is now wholly obsolete.
 Which when he saw, he burnt with jealous fire;
 The eye of reason was with rage *blent*. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*
 Regard of worldly muck doth foully *blend*,
 And low abate the high heroic spirit. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*
 The whilst thy kingdom from thy head is rent,
 And thy throne royal with dishonour *blent*. *Spens. Hubb.*

BLENDER. *n. f.* [from *to blend*.] The person that mingles.
 BLENT. The obsolete participle of *blend*. See BLEND.
 To BLESS. *v. a.* [*blet*, Saxon.]

1. To make happy; to prosper.
 The quality of mercy is not strain'd;
 It droppeth as the gentle rain of heaven
 Upon the place beneath. It is twice *blest*;
 It *blest* him that gives, and him that takes. *Merc. of Ven.*
 Had I but died an hour before this chance,
 I had liv'd a *blest* time: for, from this instant,
 There's nothing. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*

This kingdom enjoyed the greatest calm, and the fullest measure of felicity, that any people, in any age for so long time together, have been *blest* with. *Clarendon.*

Happy this life, which such a hero *blest*;
 What virtue dwells not in his loyal breast?
 In vain with folding arms the youth assay'd
 To stop her flight, and strain the flying shade;
 But she return'd no more, to *blest* his longing eyes. *Dryden.*
 O hospitable Jove! we thus invoke,
Blest to both nations this auspicious hour. *Dryden's Æn.*

2. To with happiness to another; to pronounce a blessing upon him.
 And this is the blessing wherewith Moses the man of God *blest* the children of Israel, before his death. *Deut. xxxiii. 1.*

3. To praise; to glorify for benefits received; to celebrate.
 Unto us there is one only guide of all agents natural, and he both the creator and worker of all in all, alone to be *blest*, adored, and honoured by all for ever. *Hooker, b. i. § 3.*
 But *blest* be that great pow'r, that hath us *blest*;
 With longer life than earth and heav'n can have. *Davies.*

4. It seems, in one place of *Spenser*, to signify the same as *to wave*; *to brandish*; *to flourish*.
 Whom when the prince to battle new address,
 And threat'ning high his dreadful stroke did see,
 His sparkling blade about his right leg by the knee. *Fairy Q. b. i.*
 And smote off quite his right leg by the knee. *Fairy Q. b. i.*

BLESS'D. *particip. adj.* [from *to bless*.] Happy; enjoying heavenly felicity.
 BLESS'D Thistle. [*cniscus*, Lat.] The name of a plant.

The characters are; It hath flosculous flowers; consisting of many florets, which are multifid, and stand upon the embryo; these florets are inclosed in a icaly cup, surrounded with leaves. The species are, 1. The *blest* thistle. 2. The yellow distaff thistle. The *blest* thistle is cultivated in gardens for the herb, which is dried and preserved for medicinal uses; but of late years it hath been less used than formerly. *Miller.*

BLESS'DLY. *adv.* [from *blest*.] Happily.
 This accident of Clitophon's taking had *bless'dly* procured their meeting. *Sidney, b. i.*

BLI

BLESS'DNESS. *n. f.* [from *blest*.]
 1. Happiness; felicity.
 Many times have I, leaning to yonder palm, admired the *blest*ness of it, that it could bear love without the sense of pain. *Sidney.*

His overthrow heap'd happiness upon him;
 For then, and not till then, he felt himself,
 And found the *blest*ness of being little. *Shaksp. Hen. VIII.*

2. Sanctity.
 Earthlier happy is the rose diffill'd,
 Than that, which, withering on the virgin thorn,
 Grows, lives, and dies in single *blest*ness. *Shaksp. Midsummer Night's Dream.*

3. Heavenly felicity.
 It is such an one, as, being begun in grace, passes into glory, *blest*ness, and immortality. *South.*

4. Divine favour.
 BLESSER. *n. f.* [from *blest*.] He that blesses, or gives a blessing; he that makes any thing prosper.
 When thou receivest praise, take it indifferently, and return it to God, as the giver of the gift, or the *blesser* of the action. *Taylor's Holy Living.*

BLESSING. *n. f.* [from *blest*.]
 1. Benediction; a prayer by which happiness is implored for any one.
 2. A declaration by which happiness is promised in a prophetic and authoritative manner.
 The person that is called, kneeleth down before the chair, and the father layeth his hand upon his head, or her head, and giveth the *blessing*. *Bacon's New Atlantis.*

3. Any of the means of happiness; a gift; an advantage; a benefit.
 Nor are his *blessings* to his banks confin'd,
 But free, and common, as the sea and wind. *Drum.*

Political jealousy is very reasonable in persons persuaded of the excellency of their constitution, who believe that they derive from it the most valuable *blessings* of society. *Addison.*

A just and wise magistrate is a *blessing* as extensive as the community to which he belongs: a *blessing* which includes all other *blessings* whatsoever, that relate to this life. *Atterbury.*

4. Divine favour.
 My pretty cousin,
 Blessing upon you! *Shaksp. Macbeth.*

I had most need of *blessing*, and amen;
 Stuck in my throat. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*
 Honour thy father and mother, both in word and deed, that a *blessing* may come upon thee from them. *Ecclus. iii. 8.*
 He shall receive the *blessing* from the Lord. *Psal. xxix. 5.*

5. The Hebrews, under this name, often understand the presents which friends make to one another; in all probability, because they are generally attended with *blessings* and compliments both from those who give, and those who receive. *Calnet.*

And Jacob said, receive my present at my hand; take, I pray thee, my *blessing* that is brought to thee. *Gen. xxxiii. 10.*

BEST. *particip. adj.* [from *blest*.]
 Peace to thy gentle shade, and endless rest!
 Blest in thy genius, in thy love too *blest*! *Pope.*

BLEW. The *preterite* from *blow*; which see.
 The rest fled into a strong tower, where, seeing no remedy, they desperately *blew* up themselves, with a great part of the castle, with gunpowder. *Knolles's History of the Turks.*

BLEYME. *n. f.* An inflammation in the foot of a horse, proceeding from bruised blood, between the sole and the bone. *Farrier's Dict.*

BRIGHT. *n. f.* [The etymology unknown.]
 1. Mildew; according to *Skinner*; but it seems taken by most writers, in a general sense, for any cause of the failure of fruits.
 I complain'd to the oldest and best gardeners, who often fell into the same misfortune, and esteem'd it some *blight* of the spring. *Temple.*

2. Any thing nipping, or blasting.
 When you come to the proof once, the first *blight* of frost shall most infallibly strip you of all your glory. *Lehmann.*

To BLIGHT. *v. a.* [from the noun.]
 1. To corrupt with mildew.
 This vapour bears up along with it any noxious mineral steams; it then blasts vegetables, *blights* corn and fruit, and is sometimes injurious even to men. *Woodward's Natural Hist.*

2. In general, to blast; to hinder from fertility.
 My country neighbours do not find it impossible to think of a lame horse they have, or their *blighted* corn, till they have run over in their minds all beings. *Lacke.*

But left harsh care the lover's peace destroy,
 And roughly *blight* the tender buds of joy,
 Let reason teach. *Lyttleton.*

BLIND. *adj.* [*blind*, Saxon.]
 1. Without sight; deprived of the sense of seeing; dark.
 The *blind* man that governs his steps by feeling, in defect of eyes, receives advertisement of remote things through a staff. *Digby on the Seal.*

Those

BLI

Those other two equall'd with me in fate,
 So were I equall'd with them in renown!
Blind Thamyris, and *blind* Maenonides;
 And Tircias, and Phineus, prophets old. *Par. Lost, b. iii.*

2. Intellectually dark; unable to judge; ignorant; with to before that which is unseen.
 All authors to their own defects are *blind*;
 Hadst thou, but Janus like, a face behind,
 To see the people, what play mouths they make;
 To mark their fingers, pointed at thy back. *Dryden's Pers.*

3. Sometimes of.
Blind of the future, and by rage misled,
 He pulls his crimes upon his people's head. *Dryden's Fab.*

4. Unseen; out of the publick view; private; generally with some tendency to some contempt or censure.
 To grievous and scandalous inconveniences they make themselves subject, with whom any *blind* or secret corner is judged a fit house of common prayer. *Hooker, b. v. § 25.*

5. Not easily discernible; hard to find; dark; obscure; unseen.
 There be also *blind* fires under stones, which flame not out; but oil being poured upon them, they flame out. *Bacon.*

Where else
 Shall I inform my unacquainted feet
 In the blind mazes of this tangl'd wood? *Milton.*

How have we wander'd a long dismal night,
 Led through *blind* paths by each deluding light. *Recommen.*
 Part creeping underground, their journey *blind*,
 And climbing from below, their fellows meet. *Dryden.*

So mariners mistake the promis'd gulf,
 And, with full sails, on the *blind* rocks are lost. *Dryden.*
 A postern door, yet unobserv'd and free,
 Join'd by the length of a *blind* gallery,
 To the king's closet bed. *Dryden's Ænoid.*

6. *Blind* Vessels. [with chymists.] Such as have no opening but on one side.
 To BLIND. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To make blind; to deprive of sight.
 You amble lightnings, dart your *blinding* flames
 Into her scornful eyes! *Shaksp. King Lear.*
 Of whose hand have I received any bribe to *blind* mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it. *Sam. xii. 3.*

A blind guide is certainly a great mischief; but a guide that *blinds* those whom he should lead, is undoubtedly a much greater. *South.*

2. To darken; to obscure to the eye.
 So whirl the seas, such darkness *blinds* the sky,
 That the black night receives a deeper dye. *Dryden's Fab.*

3. To obscure to the understanding.
 The state of the controversy between us he endeavour'd, with all his art, to *blind* and confound. *Stillingfleet.*

BLIND. *n. f.*
 1. Something to hinder the sight.
 Hardly any thing in our conversation is pure and genuine; civility calls a *blind* over the duty, under some customary words. *L'Estrange.*

2. Something to mislead the eye, or the understanding.
 The discourses set an opposition between his commands and decrees; making the one a *blind* for the execution of the other. *Decay of Piety.*

To BLINDFOLD. *v. a.* [from *blind* and *fold*.] To hinder from seeing, by blinding the eyes.
 When they had *blindfolded* him, they struck him on the face. *Luke, xxii. 64.*

BLINDFOLD. *adj.* [from the verb.] Having the eyes covered.
 And oft himself he chanc'd to hurt unawares,
 Whilst reason, *blind* through passion, nought desier'd,
 But, as a *blindfold* bull, at random fares,
 And where he hits, nought knows, and where he hurts, nought cares. *Fairy Queen, b. ii. c. iv. stanza 7.*

Who *blindfold* walks upon a river's brim,
 When he should see, has he deserv'd to swim? *Dryden.*
 When lots are shuffled together, or a man *blindfold* casts a dye, what reason can he have to presume, that he shall draw a white stone rather than a black? *South.*

They will look into the state of the nation with their own eyes, and be no longer led *blindfold* by a male legislature. *Addison. Freeholder, N° 32.*

BLINDLY. *adv.* [from *blind*.]
 1. Without sight.
 2. Implicitly; without examination.

The old king, after a long debate,
 By his imperious mistress *blindly* led,
 Has given Cydaria to Orbellan's bed. *Dryd. Indian Emp.*

How ready zeal for interest and party, is to charge atheism on those, who will not, without examining, submit, and *blindly* swallow their nonsense. *Lacke.*

2. Without judgment or direction.
 How seas, and earth, and air, and active flame,
 Fell through the mighty void; and, in their fall,
 Were *blindly* gather'd in this goodly ball. *Dryden's Silenus.*

BLINDMAN'S BUFF. *n. f.* A play in which some one is to have his eyes covered, and hunt out the rest of the company.

BLI

Disguis'd in all the mask of night,
 We left our champion on his flight:
 At *blindman's buff* to grope his way, *Hudibras, p. iii. c. iii.*
 In equal fear of night and day.

He imagines I shut my eyes again; but surely he fancies I play at *blindman's buff* with him; for he thinks I never have my eyes open. *Stillingfleet's Defence of Dife. on Remish Idolatry.*

BLINDNESS. *n. f.* [from *blind*.]
 1. Want of sight.
 Nor can we call it choice, when what we chuse,
 Folly and *blindness* only could refuse. *De Lam.*

2. Ignorance; intellectual darkness.
 All the rest as born of savage brood,
 But with base thoughts are into *blindness* led,
 And kept from looking on the lightome day. *Spenser.*

Whensoever we would proceed beyond these simple ideas, we fall presently into darkness and difficulties, and can discover nothing farther but our own *blindness* and ignorance. *Lacke.*

BLINDSIDE. *n. f.* [from *blind* and *side*.] Weakness; foible; weak part.
 He is too great a lover of himself; but this is one of his *blind*sides; and the best of men, I fear, are not without them. *Swift's Wonderful Wonder of Wonders.*

BLINDWORM. *n. f.* [from *blind* and *worm*.] A small viper, the least of our English serpents, but venomous.
 You spotted snakes, with double tongue,
 Thorny hedgehogs, be not seen;
 Newts and *blindworms*, do no wrong;
 Come not near our fairy queen. *Shaksp. Mid. N. Dr.*

The greater slow worm, called also the *blindworm*, is commonly thought to be blind, because of the littleness of his eyes. *Grew's Museum.*

To BLINK. *v. n.* [*blincken*, Danish.]
 1. To wink, or twinkle with the eyes.
 So politick, as if one eye
 Upon the other were a spy;
 That to trepan the one to think
 The other blind, both strove to *blink*. *Hudibras, p. iii. c. iii.*

2. To see obscurely.
 What's here! the portrait of a *blinking* idiot. *Shaksp. Merchant of Venice.*

Sweet and lovely well,
 Shew me thy chin, to *blink* through with mine eyne. *Shaksp. Midsummer Night's Dream.*

His figure such as might his soul proclaim;
 One eye was *blinking*, and one leg was lame. *Pope's Iliad.*

BLINKARD. *n. f.* [from *blink*.]
 1. One that has bad eyes.
 2. Something twinkling.

In some parts we see many glorious and eminent stars, in others few of any remarkable greatness, and, in some, none but *blinkards*, and obscure ones. *Hakewell on Providence.*

BLISS. *n. f.* [*blisse*, Sax. from *blis*, Saxon, to rejoice.]
 1. The highest degree of happiness; blessedness; felicity; generally used of the happiness of blessed souls.
 A mighty Saviour hath witnessed of himself, I am the way; the way that leadeth us from misery into *bliss*. *Hooker, b. i.*

Dim sadness did not spare
 That time celestiall visages; yet, mix'd
 With pity, violat not their *bliss*. *Par. Lost, b. x. l. 25.*

With me
 All my redeem'd may dwell, in joy and *bliss*. *Par. Lost, b. xi.*

2. Felicity in general.
 Condition, circumstance is not the thing;
Bliss is the same in subject or in king. *Pope.*

BLISSFUL. *adj.* [from *bliss* and *full*.] Full of joy; happy in the highest degree.
 Yet swimming in that sea of *blissful* joy,
 He nought forgot. *Fairy Queen, b. i. c. i. stanza 41.*

The two saddest ingredients in hell, are deprivation of the *blissful* vision, and confusion of face. *Hammond.*

Reaping immortal fruits of joy and love,
 Uninterrupted joy, unrivall'd love,
 In *blissful* solitude. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. iii. l. 89.*

First in the fields I try the silvan strains,
 Nor *bliss* to sport in Windsor's *blissful* plains. *Pope.*

BLISSFULLY. *adv.* [from *blissful*.] Happily.
 BLISSFULNESS. *n. f.* [from *blissful*.] Happiness; fulness of joy.
 To BLISSOM. *v. n.* To caterwaul; to be lustful. *Diſt.*

BLISTER. *n. f.* [*blister*, Dutch.]
 1. A pustule formed by raising the cuticle from the cutis, and filled with ferous blood.
 In this state she gallops, night by night,
 O'er ladies lips, who fruit on kisses dream,
 Which oft the angry mob with *blisters* plagues,
 Because their breaths with sweetmeats tainted are. *Shaksp. Romeo and Juliet.*

I found a great *blister* drawn by the garlick, but had it cut, which run a good deal of water, but filled again by next night. *Temple.*

2. Any swelling made by the separation of a film or skin from the other parts.
 Upon